

AA-882

Robert L. Forney Farm
Waterbury

Circa 1852 with early
20th century addition

Private

The Robert L. Forney Farm is a typical farmstead of central Anne Arundel County. It is significant for its setting--approximately 151 acres of relatively undeveloped farm land. Much of this immediate area, Waterbury and Millersville, still retains its rural character. Architecturally, the farm buildings are of average significance. They include a mid-19th century frame dwelling with an early 20th century addition, a frame meathouse, an early 20th century frame storage shed, a mid-19th century frame tobacco barn, and a mid-20th century frame barn.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-882

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Crandell Farm

and/or common Robert L. Forney Farm

2. Location

street & number approx. 1/2 mile s. of Severn Chapel Rd., and .4 mile — not for publication

S. W. of intersection with Waterbury Rd.

city, town Waterbury ☒ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert L. Forney

street & number 1559 Severn Chapel Rd. telephone no.: 301-923-2694

city, town Crownsville, Md state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel Co. Courthouse liber 2644

street & number Church Circle folio 828

city, town Annapolis, state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Robert L. Forney Farm, located in central Anne Arundel County near the town of Waterbury, consists of approximately 151 acres on which stand a mid-19th century frame dwelling with an early 20th century addition, a frame meathouse, an early 20th century frame storage shed, a mid-19th century frame tobacco barn, and a mid-20th century frame barn.

The frame dwelling, which faces northwest, was constructed in two sections. The earlier section is a 1 1/2 story dwelling, measuring 3 bays by 1 bay with a shed wing covering the rear (southeast) elevation. An offset entrance is located on the southwest end of the principal facade. Two pitched roof dormers pierce the facade slope of the gable roof. (The overall dimensions of this earlier section are 16 x 24 feet).

Adjoining the northeast gable end of the earlier section and running perpendicular to it is an early 20th century addition with the gable end oriented to the facade. It measures 2 bays by 2 bays and has a 1-story shed wing covering the rear (southeast) elevation. The principal entrance is located on the facade in the southwest bay of this addition.

A hip roof, one-story porch supported by six turned posts runs across the facade of the dwelling. The exterior walls of the house are covered with asbestos siding and the roof with asphalt shingles. The windows are 6/6 sash in the earlier, mid-19th century, section and are 2/2 sash in the later, early 20th century section. An interior brick chimney is located where the two sections meet.

Interior trim is plain; a plain mid-19th century mantel survives in the earlier section of the house.

A frame meathouse, now covered with asphalt siding, is located to the rear (southeast) of the dwelling.

A tobacco barn, located west of the house, appears to date from the mid-19th century with later alterations due to a fire (information provided by present owner). It has hewn sills and posts. The rafters are mitred and rest on a flat false plate. A shed, covering the northeast elevation, functioned as a stockyard. This tobacco barn has not been used for drying tobacco for 14 years. A newer frame tobacco barn located to the south has replaced the older barn.

A brick lined well, which has been sealed, is located in front of the house, to the northwest, across the driveway.

The present owner says that the field in front of the house may well be an Indian burial ground; it has produced a rich assortment of Indian artifacts. A boundary stone marked "RHHW 1790" is also located on the property.

The farm is situated on high ground for the area. A spectacular view to the northwest can be afforded from the front porch of the house.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: circa 1852 with earlier 20th cent. addition

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Robert L. Forney Farm is a typical farmstead of this region. It is significant for its setting--approximately 151 acres of relatively undeveloped farm land. Much of this immediate area, Waterbury and Millersville, still retains its rural character. Architecturally, the farm buildings are of average significance.

The location of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad through this area in 1840 (3/4 mile from the Forney Farm), gave rise to numerous farms along its path.

In 1852 Rignal D. Woodward of nearby Abington (see AA-174), sold 109 acres of "Woodwards Enclosure" to Thomas Crandell of Anne Arundel County.¹ An additional 41 acres were conveyed in 1870. A mortgage foreclosure occurred in 1876 and Crandell's death shortly thereafter.² Descendants of Crandell's received the property at a public sale, but were forced to sell in 1887 due to another mortgage foreclosure. An advertisement for the sale in 1887 described the farm as 109 acres, bordering the farms of R. D. Woodward, Springfield Baldwin and others.³ It was improved by a dwelling, barn and other out-houses "in good condition."³ It was purchased by William Cadle, who conveyed it in 1887 to Eliza J. Forney of Anne Arundel County.⁴ The present owner is a descendant of Eliza Forney.

1. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber NHG No. 1, Folio 22.
2. Equity Case #564 (1876); and Land Records Liber SH No. 11, Folios 75-77.
3. Equity Case #1135 (1887).
4. Land Records, Liber SH No. 31, Folios 564 and 565.

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10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 7.5

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11. Form Prepared By

city or town Annapolis, state MD

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



AA-882

Robert L. Forney Farm

Anne Arundel Co. Md.

Photo: D. Ware, 6/84

Facade, N. W. elev.



AA-882

Robert L. Forney Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Md.

Photo: D. Ware, 6/84

Rear, S. E. elev.



AA-882

Robert L. Forney Farm

Anne ARundel Co., Md.

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Barn, N. E. elev.